

**24th Meeting of the Working Group to the Aarhus Convention
(Virtual, 1-3 July 2020)
Agenda item 3 (b): Access to Information**

Norway

Thank you Chair,

Norway would like to thank the Secretariat for the Report from the last meeting of the Task force and the Chair of the Task Force for her note and report, and for the work done to increase and spread knowledge on the rights of access to information, their implementation, best practices and the challenges faced and ways to address them. We believe that the Task Force provides a valuable platform for these purposes.

We support the proposals for substantive issues to be given particular priorities in the next intersessional period.

As for the work of the Task Force and the number and form of meetings, including the use of digital platforms, we refer to the statement made under the previous Agenda item on Access to justice.

We would also take this opportunity to briefly comment upon the draft updated Recommendations on electronic information tools. The draft set high ambitions and contains elements important for digital transformation in the environmental field in order to further enhance protection of the environment and public access to information and participation for this purpose.

Norway has established strategies within the scope of the draft updated Recommendations as part of the digital transformation that we are aiming for.

We are in general supportive of the draft updated Recommendations, to which we have previously provided comments. The draft updated Recommendations appear updated and relevant. The high ambitions and in some parts quite detailed and prescriptive recommendations do however have resource implications. As they are recommendations that describe aims and measures to achieve them through establishment and further development without prescribing absolute time-limits, they also provide some flexibility for Parties to set their priorities and allocate resources for the establishment and further development of measures on the basis of the recommendations.

Thank you Chair.